

West Lauderdale at Kosciusko, 7 p.m.
 Northeast Lauderdale at Leake Central, 7 p.m.
 Lamar at Heritage Academy, 7 p.m.
 Russell Christian at Ezekiel Academy, 7 p.m.
 Enterprise at Mize, 7 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Lake, 7 p.m.
 Neshoba Central at Canton, 7 p.m.



NFL
Buccaneers @ Saints
 Sunday, October 6th 12pm



TV SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change and/or blackouts

Tuesday, October 1

MLB BASEBALL

7 p.m.

TBS — Playoffs: Milwaukee at Washington, N.L. Wild Card Game

SOCCER (MEN'S)

11:55 a.m.

TNT — UEFA Champions League: Club Brugge at Real Madrid, Group A

2 p.m.

WNBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m.

ESPN — WNBA Finals: Connecticut at Washington, Game 2

Saints 2-0 without QB L

By Guerry Smith

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Saints are 2-0 without future Hall of Fame quarterback Drew Brees. That alone made Sunday night's 12-10 victory against Dallas beautiful for coach Sean Payton despite some ugly offensive moments.

"It's just about the feeling of winning," Payton said Monday.

Two weeks after a thumb injury sidelined Brees for an estimated six games, New Orleans (3-1) has moved up rather than down in the standings, leading the NFC South while relying heavily on special teams and defense.

The Saints returned a fumble and a punt for touchdowns at Seattle, setting a Payton-era low for yards in a victory with 265.

Against the Cowboys, they won without scoring a touchdown for the first time since 1998 — eight years before Payton's hiring. Four field goals from Wil Lutz and a dominant defensive performance fueled the win.

New Orleans held the Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliot to 35 yards on 18 attempts, the second-lowest average per carry of his four-year career. Aside from a 32-yard pass to tight end Blake Jarwin on Dallas' lone touchdown drive, quarterback Dak Prescott did not have a completion of more than 16 yards until a desperate final series that ended with an interception as time ran out.

New Orleans forced four punts, caused three turnovers and allowed only two scores.

"We hit a home run, and I'm glad to be a part of changing the mindset," safety Von Bell said. "We want to be the reason why we win games, and that's what we did last night."

Bell was a difference-maker for the second consecutive week. After

midfield to stop a drive in the second quarter. He went one better on the Cowboys' next series, stripping Elliot and falling on the ball.

Bell's 10 tackles gave him a team-high 31 for the season.

"The game is slowing down for me. I'm just seeing the plays and the formations and know what's coming," he said.

The Saints offense did just enough, overcoming five sacks and nine penalties. Alvin Kamara rushed for 69 yards on 17 carries. Michael Thomas had nine catches for 95 yards. Teddy Bridgewater completed 23 of 30 passes.

"I was pleased with the way we were able to establish the line of scrimmage," Payton said. "We won that battle yesterday. We won the rushing battle and the turnover battle."

The next step is eliminating drive-killing mistakes.

Payton blamed himself for the play call on the final sack — a 16-yard loss on third down that knocked the Saints out of field goal range as they protected their two-point lead right after the 2-minute warning.

The defense held again, but Payton was angry about having put his team in that position.

"It ended up taking us out of scoring position, and that's not good," he said.

WHAT'S WORKING

In their most complete performance of the year, the defense shut down the run, took away big plays in the Dallas pass offense and limited the Cowboys to 4 of 11 third-down conversions.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Saints continue to draw a flurry of flags, an unsustainable formula for success. The offensive linemen were

MAYATT from page B1

embodiment of a student-athlete.

"I have her in my class, and she's polite to her teachers and classmates," George said. "She's a really quiet individual, but she's laser-focused. She knows what she wants, and as a player, we use her all over the field. In the classroom, she has the highest GPA in my economics class, and she's definitely the blueprint of what a student-athlete should be."

While her studies come first, Mayatt said soccer complements her academic pursuits, and she couldn't imagine growing up having not played the game.

"It pumps me up," Mayatt said. "I've been playing it all my life."

George said having a player who scored a 36 on the team is something in which to take pride, and the accomplishment is a reflection of Mayatt's high character.

"Word gets out," George said. "I think it's one of the most positive features for a team is to have good student-athletes — kids who go in the classroom and perform and don't cause any detriment to the campus and do what they're asked to do. She's exemplary of that, and Railey will go on and be successful in whatever Railey wants to do."

After graduating in May of next year, Mayatt plans to attend Mississippi State, and she one day hopes to go into the medical field. She's considering majoring in biomedical engineering for undergrad. If she had any advice for a younger wanting to excel both academically and athletically, it's to never give in to the frustration that trying to balance everything can bring at times.

"Don't give up, even if it seems really hard and you feel like you can't keep up," Mayatt said. "Just keep pushing. As long as you're passionate and driven, you should be able to accomplish anything."

Mayatt is the daughter of Cliff and Kristin Mayatt.

NOTEBOOK from page B1

played," head coach Andy Braddock said. "They showed Friday night what hard work, determination and a little grit will get you."

The team rushed for 310 yards and scored six times on the ground, led by quarterback Micah Taylor's 141 yards and two touchdowns on seven carries. Taylor also completed 2 of 4 passes for 55 yards, including a 36-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Ingram.

Mason Easterwood had a fumble recovery for

a touchdown, and Aaron Brinson picked off a pass and made 17 tackles on defense.

"Sometimes it's hard to keep a team focused with them being undefeated this far into the season, but not these guys," Braddock said. "They keep working hard and getting after it every day in practice, and it shows on Friday nights."

RCA (7-0) plays Banks Academy (4-2) at home Friday.

scoring on the fumble return against Seattle, he recovered a fumble from Dallas tight end Jason Witten near

success. The offensive lineman was called for holding five times. New Orleans is fourth-to-last in the NFL in de

ANDERSON from page B1

at East Central — the only school to offer him a scholarship after high school. He earned a .434 batting average in 98 games as a Warrior, becoming a First-Team NJCAA All-American and the 2013 NJCAA Male Athlete of the Year after. His jersey was retired in 2017.

"Every day, Tim did something new that he couldn't, or hadn't done the previous week," said Justin Brewer, a former assistant coach at East Central. "He

got better and better every time he was on the field."

The 26-year-old wanted to make this year's All-Star Game, Holliman said, but an injury kept him out. Holliman said he told his former player the AL Batting Title is a bigger accolade.

"He came back (from injury) and still kept up the same pace that he was on, and was able to win a batting title," he said. "I told him that's a much more

higher accomplishment than going to the All-Star Game."

Anderson was taken the White Sox in the first round of the 2013 MLB Draft but didn't make his pro debut until 2016. Holliman said he knew Anderson could make it the big leagues while still at East Central, but didn't know if he could thrive there until he saw him play in Kannapolis, North Carolina, on his assigned C

WHITE SOX from page B1

119 in 2003. The Tigers will pick first in the amateur draft next June for the second time in three years.

"A long season, a tough season," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We knew it coming in, that this was going to be probably, hopefully, the roughest part of the rebuild. Hopefully, we do a little better next year."

Chicago trailed 2-1 before a four-run sixth inning. Yoán Moncada hit an RBI groundout, Eloy Jiménez followed with a run-scoring double against Spencer Turnbull (3-17) and Welington Castillo hit a two-run homer off David McKay.

Turnbull was 0-13 in his last 18 starts after beating Atlanta on May 31. Turnbull allowed four runs and three

hits in 5 1/3 innings.

"I'm happy with how I finished, for the most part," Turnbull said. "It's still tough to completely put together full, complete starts. It's frustrating that I can dominate for stretches, but not able to keep it consistent."

Jimmy Cordero (1-1) got two outs for his second big league win, his first since Aug. 21 last year for Washington against Philadelphia. Kelvin Herrera pitched the ninth for his first save since Aug. 5 last year for the Nationals against Cincinnati.

Miguel Cabrera and Ronny Rodríguez homered for Detroit. Cabrera hit 12 homers, raising his two-year total to 15 and his career total to 477.

The Meridian Star Sports Staff

To contact The Meridian Star's sports department, please call 601-485-1207 or 601-485-1231. Information can also be faxed to 601-485-1275 or e-mailed to sports@themeridianstar.com — no attachments, please.

Sports Editor
Drew Kerekes
dkerekes@themeridianstar.com

Sports writer
Elton Hayes
ehayes@themeridianstar.com

JUCCO BASEBALL



AP Photo / Mark Black

Chicago White Sox's Tim Anderson comes out of the dugout and waves to fans after a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers Sunday in Chicago.

Major league award

Anderson praised by ECCC coaches after winning batting title

By Matt Case

mcase@themeridianstar.com

Neal Holliman just got back from Chicago.

With the chance for East Central Community College alumnus Tim Anderson to win Major League Baseball's American League Batting Title as a member of the White Sox, the Warriors' head coach knew he needed to be at Guaranteed Rate Field this weekend.

MLB

Anderson earns AL batting title at .335 as White Sox win

By John Jackson

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — In honor of Tim Anderson becoming the third Chicago White Sox player to win an American League batting title, a single bottle of champagne sat chilling in his locker on Sunday.

The 26-year-old shortstop is hoping for a team-wide toast next season.

"Now I think it's time to get on the winning side of things," Anderson said. "Hopefully, we can continue to be playing at this time next year. We just have to keep coming together as a team and keep having fun. I think we're getting there."

Anderson finished at .335 after going 0 for 2 in a season-ending 3 win over the worst-in-the-major Detroit Tigers.

He grounded out in the first inning, lined out in the third,

"I said, 'If he wins it, I'm going to be there,'" Holliman said.

And despite not registering a hit in the two games Holliman attended — the final two games of the season — Anderson's .335 batting average was good enough to put him among Babe Ruth, Ted Williams and numerous other hall-of-famers as winners of the award.

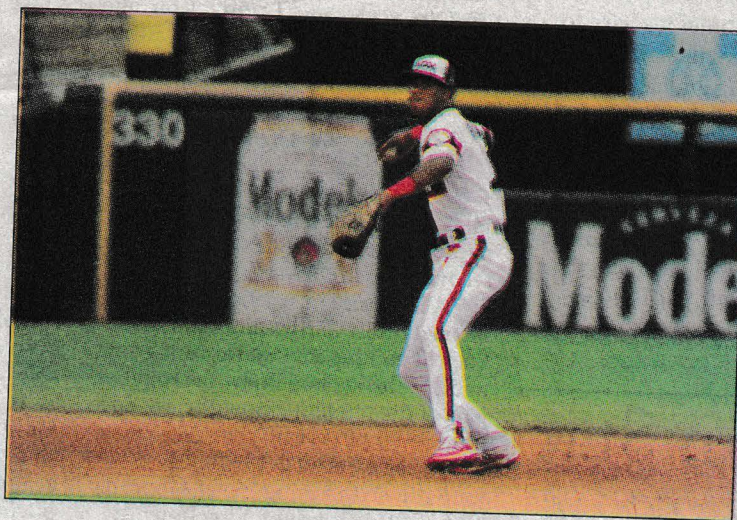
The shortstop beat out the Yankees' DJ LeMahieu by only .08, garnering 167 hits, 81

runs and 57 RBIs in his fourth season with Chicago. He also knocked in 32 doubles and 18 home runs.

"I don't think it's sunk in for us here, or for him," said Holliman, who spoke to Anderson after he won the title. "It was so unexpected this early in his career, and to do something of this magnitude is huge."

Anderson spent two years under Holliman

See **ANDERSON**, page B2



AP Photo / Mark Black

Chicago White Sox's shortstop Tim Anderson throws to first against the Detroit Tigers during the fourth inning of a baseball game Sunday in Chicago.

then was replaced at the start of the fifth. He received a standing ovation and took a curtain call after the team announced the

batting title on the scoreboard in the sixth.

DJ LeMahieu of the Yankees was second at .327 after an 0 for

3 finish.

"It's such a huge accomplishment," Anderson said. "To think where I was when I first came here to where it is now. I just came in and continued to work. It's such an unbelievable moment for me."

He joined Luke Appling (1936 and 1943) and Frank Thomas (1997) as batting champions for the White Sox. Anderson hit .240 in 567 at-bats last season.

"He will continue to improve in all aspects of his game," Chicago manager Rick Renteria said. "He will continue to be a guy that helps ignite us. If he's not a star now, he's a star in the making."

Chicago went 72-89, up from 62-100 last year.

Detroit skidded to a 47-114 mark from last year's 64-98 and wound up with the second-most losses in franchise history behind

See **WHITE SOX**, page B2

Saints 7-0 without QB L

By Guerry Smith

midfield to stop a drive in the second

West Lauderdale at Kosciuszko, 7 p.m.
Northeast Lauderdale at Leake Central, 7 p.m.
Lamar at Heritage Academy, 7 p.m.

ANDERSON from page B1

at East Central — the only school to offer him a scholarship after high school. He earned a .434 batting average in 98 games as a Warrior, becoming a First-Team NJCAA All-American and the 2013 NJCAA Male Athlete of the Year after. His jersey was retired in 2017.

"Every day, Tim did something new that he couldn't, or hadn't done the previous week," said Justin Brewer, a former assistant coach at East Central. "He

got better and better every time he was on the field."

The 26-year-old wanted to make this year's All-Star Game, Holliman said, but an injury kept him out. Holliman said he told his former player the AL Batting Title is a bigger accolade.

"He came back (from injury) and still kept up the same pace that he was on, and was able to win a batting title," he said. "I told him that's a much more

higher accomplishment than going to the All-Star Game."

Anderson was taken by the White Sox in the first round of the 2013 MLB Draft but didn't make his pro debut until 2016.

Holliman said he knew Anderson could make it to the big leagues while still at East Central, but didn't know if he could thrive there until he saw him play in Kannapolis, North Carolina, on his assigned Class

A minor league team later that year.

"He just came from seeing 85-86 (miles per hour) on a daily basis, and now he's seeing 93-96, and he's swinging a wooden bat, and he's not overmatched," Holliman said. "That's the first time I thought he had a chance to make it."

Anderson is just the third White Sox player to win a batting title, and the first since Frank Thomas in 1997.

WHITE SOX from page B1

119 in 2003. The Tigers will pick first in the amateur draft next June for the second time in three years.

"A long season, a tough season," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We knew it coming in, that this was going to be probably, hopefully, the roughest part of the rebuild. Hopefully, we do a little better next year."

Chicago trailed 2-1 before a four-run sixth inning. Yoán Moncada hit an RBI groundout, Eloy Jiménez followed with a run-scoring double against Spencer Turnbull (3-17) and Welington Castillo hit a two-run homer off David McKay.

Turnbull was 0-13 in his last 18 starts after beating Atlanta on May 31. Turnbull allowed four runs and three

hits in 5 1/3 innings.

"I'm happy with how I finished, for the most part," Turnbull said. "It's still tough to completely put together full, complete starts. It's frustrating that I can dominate for stretches, but not able to keep it consistent."

Jimmy Cordero (1-1) got two outs for his second big league win, his first since Aug. 21 last year for Washington against Philadelphia. Kelvin Herrera pitched the ninth for his first save since Aug. 5 last year for the Nationals against Cincinnati.

Miguel Cabrera and Ronny Rodríguez homered for Detroit. Cabrera hit 12 homers, raising his two-year total to 15 and his career total to 477.

ANOTHER CROWN

White Sox slugger José Abreu finished with 123 RBIs for the most in the AL. Abreu is eligible for free agency but wants to stay.

"Right now, I'm just gonna take a few days off with my family," he said through a translator. "We're open to discuss it. I want to be here; I've been telling you that. Hopefully, I'm going to be here."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Tigers: 2B Harold Castro missed his second straight game with a sore ankle.